

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Universal Service Fund Council

SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 11, 2014 MEETING

Meeting Date/Time: December 11, 2014, 1:00 PM

Place: Public Service Commission Building, Pecatonica River Conf. Rm. - Madison, WI

Council Members: (in person) Jean Pauk – USFC Chair (TDS), David Byers (NEIT Wireless), Jack Cassell (DOA/TRS), Pam Holmes (Ultratec), Bob Jones (WISCAP Association), Bob Kellerman (GWAAR), Kathy Schmitt (DATCAP); **(by phone)** Scott Bohler (Frontier Communications), Celeste Flynn (Time Warner Cable), Pam Hollick (Level 3), Jim Jermain (AT&T), Vanessa Johnson (New Concept Development Center).

Commission staff: Jeff Richter (Staff Representative to the USFC), Peter Jahn, Dennis Klaila, Sarah Klein, Duane Wilson

Others:

Chairperson Pauk called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM, welcomed those in attendance and requested a round-robin of self-introductions. Jeff Richter called role and quorum was present and he briefed the Council on the purpose of the meeting and possible outcomes.

Sarah Klein introduced herself as the Administrator of the Division of Business and Communications Services which includes the former Telecommunications Division staff and expressed the value of and appreciation for the service of the USFC members.

The USFC reviewed and approved the minutes of the June 18, 2014 meeting.

There is a vacancy for a consumer representative on the USF Council due to the departure of Jason Meyer from Avada Hearing & Audiology. Jeff is soliciting names and has found two interested parties so far. Let staff know in the next week if you have additional suggestions for candidates. Staff expects the appointment process to be completed early in 2015.

Chair Pauk would like to reactivate Council Subcommittees and their membership. There were three prior subcommittees: Rules, Low-Income, and TEPP/Disabled. She requested that Council members participate in at least one subcommittee. Staff will circulate a spreadsheet for members to fill in and email back to indicate their subcommittee(s) of choice.

Staff did not have a financial update on the grants, TEPP or Lifeline programs, however staff indicated that these financial reports will be included in future meetings.

Staff reported that the biennial audit of FYs 2013 and 2014 is underway.

Peter Jahn gave an update on the Lifeline Eligibility Verification Database upgrade project. The PSC, DHS and DOR are working on upgrading the current eligibility database to create a single source for Lifeline eligibility verification. The new database will be expanded to practically 24x7 availability and will include automated checking of income eligibility and Homestead Tax Credit participation. The query process will still check the CARES database for a yes/no on DHS program participation and, if no, will go on to check DOR for income and Homestead. Providers will have to begin uploading a pdf of an authorization form to access the query database with respect to any individual. The target for programming was mid-year 2015 with beta testing following that.

Pam Holmes provided the TEPP Subcommittee report and indicated the subcommittee met on December 4, 2014 and had made recommendations for changes to the "Equipment Authorized for TEPP Voucher Purchases" list. Following many questions regarding the changes and some proposals for clarification regarding, the Bluetooth streamer and Bluetooth adapter/hub, the proposed TEPP list changes were approved with the clarifications included.

Staff reported that the Commission had not taken action yet on the PSC160 rulemaking. After the Commission acts, the proposed rule changes will go to the Legislature next.

The USFC adjourned at 2:35 pm.

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